

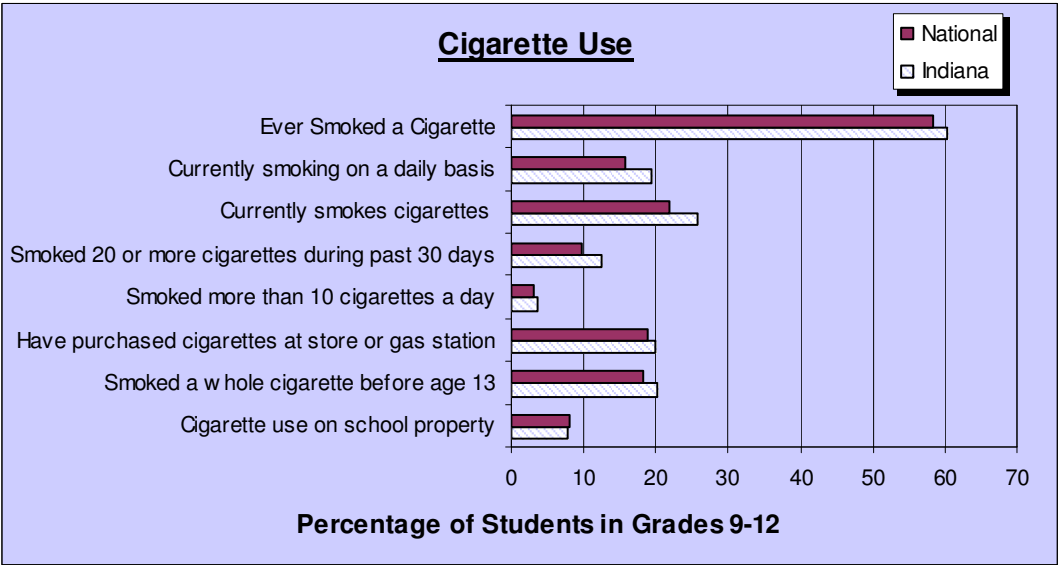
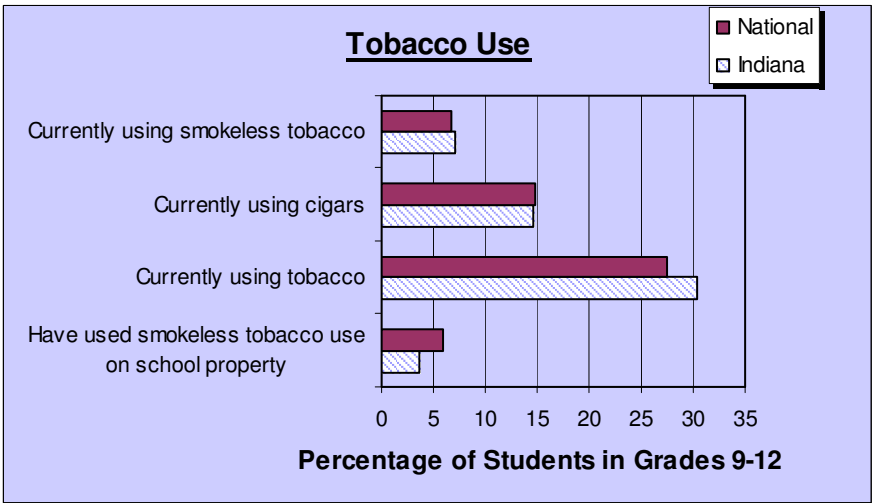


Adolescent Tobacco Use in Indiana

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of illness and death in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, it is estimated that 19,600 Indiana children become regular smokers every year. Tobacco use usually begins in early adolescence, and 89 percent of all people who have ever tried a cigarette do so by age 18.

According to the 2003 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 25.6 percent of Indiana high school students reported current cigarette use, 7.2 percent of students reported current smokeless tobacco use, and 20 percent of students in the state reported having purchased cigarettes at a store or gas station.

Following are graphs showing data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey on tobacco and cigarette use among youth in Indiana and the United States:



Young people develop a tolerance for, and become dependent on, nicotine the same way as adults do, and like adults, young people have a difficult time quitting. Tobacco use among young people poses especially serious risks. The earlier young people begin to smoke, the greater the risk for permanent lung damage and the more likely they are to become heavily addicted.

Elements that have been used in Indiana to reduce youth tobacco consumption include educational programming, media campaigns, and local youth access enforcement through compliance checks.

For more information on Indiana adolescent tobacco use, please visit the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Web site at <http://www.in.gov/itpc/>

[Return to Indiana YRBS homepage.](#)